

2-1-1948

The Bible Vision

Fort Wayne Bible Institute

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Bible Vision

February, 1948

One ship drives east
And another drives west
With the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales
That tell them the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea
Are the winds of fate,
As we voyage along through life,
'Tis the set of the soul
That decides the goal
And not the calm or the strife.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

From



The President

NOWHERE does the nature of motive count for more than in Christian work. It alone determines whether it is worthy or whether anything is more beautiful than service prompted by self-interest for others. It is the nature of love. It is the nature of the divine nature, for God is love. But let the dead hand of selfishness touch it, and its beauty will vanish. It turns to ashes.

There is a further peril when selfishness takes control. A preparation. The garb of respectability is worn. But it is no longer sincere. He is sincere when there is no correspondence between what he says and what he does. And unless the Holy Spirit awakens him to his sin, he is lost. Well has it been said that many things take time to die, but nothing takes time to complete and devastate. He is riding a ride as the lies he tells about himself.

During World War II this question of motive became critical to men preparing for Christian service because bona fide theological students were exempted from the draft. There have always been those who have taken Bible training without a conscious call to the ministry. Some were preparing themselves for lay leadership. Others were following,

one step at a time, a life plan that had not yet been unfolded. Others, no doubt, had mixed and obscure motives. But the Selective Service questionnaire had a question that asked for a yes or no answer: "Are you studying for the ministry?"

On the one hand there were those sincere, courageous young men who naturally would have followed their buddies into military service to help their country in the time of her mortal peril but in response to the still small voice of God's Spirit saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it," they spent their time training for Christian service. They were providentially prepared to enter opening doors at the close of the war and are now serving in various parts of the world as soldiers of the cross. Their "stretch" of service is for life. Their goal is the final V-Day of victory when the Lord Jesus returns in glory.

But no doubt there were some who saw in this provision of exemption an opportunity to escape military service. There was that frank letter that asked whether attendance at "Bible school" would be sure to exempt one. There was that candidate for the ministry in a seminary who had a sudden loss of enthusiasm as soon as the war ended and promptly withdrew from school!

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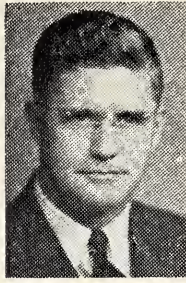
FEBRUARY, 1948

VOL. 12

NO. 5

Published monthly throughout the year with the exception of July and August by Fort Wayne Bible Institute. Subscription rate: \$1.00 per year, 15c per copy. Publication office, 153 S. Jefferson St., Berne, Indiana. General office, 3822 South Wayne Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Entered as second class matter September 5, 1939, at the Post Office at Berne, Indiana, under the act of March 3, 1879.

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NOWHERE does the nature of motive count for more than in Christian work. It alone determines whether it is worthy or unworthy. Nothing is more beautiful than service prompted by selfless concern for others. It is the fragrant bloom of love. It is the expression of the divine nature, for God is love. But let the dead hand of selfishness touch it, and its beauty and fragrance vanish. It turns sordid as it dies.

But there is a further peril when selfishness takes control. A pretence is kept up. The garb of religious respectability is worn. But the worker is no longer sincere. He is a hypocrite when there is no longer a correspondence between motive and deed. And unless the Spirit of God awakens him to his self-deception, he is lost. Well has it been said that many things take suckers for a ride, but nothing takes one for as complete and devastating a ride as the lies he tells about himself.

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

by Bertha Leitner

Tab's was weary of life, sure enough, and no one blamed her. Not that she was in financial distress, although she must be frugal; nor in ill health; nor in any particular trouble, more than others. But she was tired of managing her own affairs. And who wouldn't be?

One lives with one's self all the time, and one's self becomes tiresome to one. At first thought, one needs someone else to manage one's affairs—and one does. Especially if one is a woman! But on second thought, one needs also to participate in someone else's interests.

What to do, then? Affairs must be managed. Chaos is no better than boredom. Certainly Tab's affairs are rather badly managed by herself; perhaps that explains her ennui. But no one cares. No one wants to be bothered with another's problems, having enough of his own unsolved. Oh, well!

How often does "Oh, well" serve as the answer, and life go on, headed nowhere, achieving nothing, void of vitality—a mere sufferance.

Why? When One whose name is Counsellor offers freely His direction? When One whose Kingdom suffereth violence offers vigorous employment? When One whose interests embrace every worthy motive and every loveliness

in life, invites one to put Him on and to make no provision for one's self?

"Come unto Me," He calls to all who labor and are heavy laden. "Learn of Me" to find rest and relief from drudgery. Yoke up with Me. Share My interests. You'll find my yoke pleasant, and the shared burden will be a stimulus to worthy and entrancing effort. I'll be with you always to show judgment with no strife nor crying, to care tenderly for the bruised reed, to fan into flame the smoking flax, and to lead all your battles to victory!"

Does He mean that He really will "take over" Tab's concerns and manage her affairs for her? Is it possible that He will make her of concern to Him, even as the apple of His eye? Will love revive in her cold, stony heart? To her anxious queries, He speaks assurance, "Whosoever will can be My brother, sister. Commit thy way unto Me, and I will bring it to pass. Follow Me, and I will make you successful in the greatest job of the ages."

But though Tab's was tired of managing her own affairs and would have welcomed a supervisor, now that One made His offer known to her, she faced Him with fear and trembling. This was a new thing. Could she let go of her possessions

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Our Alumna Martyr

by Roy J. Birkey

"It does not matter, I'll fix up the best I can and I'll be living among the people most of the time," were the words of Miss Mary De Garmo, after she was released from the Japanese prison camp in Shanghai, and after she had returned to her former work to discover the devastation of war at her inland station in North China. Then the civil struggle began. The line of conflict between the Nationalists and Communists moved farther and farther South and whipped back and forth along the Lunghai Railroad. Being at the end of her term of service and being a generous soul, Miss De Garmo did not possess too many of the bare necessities of life. Yet, as the war grew in intensity, she was robbed again and again (before I left China it was said that she had been robbed 18 different times) until she resorted to wearing Chinese clothes. Nevertheless, her heroic spirit remained undaunted.

Miss Mary De Garmo was born and reared on the rolling prairies

of Western Nebraska. By word and by experience she learned, to no small degree, from the early pioneers of their struggles to gain a foot hold on the land as they encountered bitter blizzards, dust and hail storms, drought, heat and grasshoppers. These factors, no doubt, made a definite contribution in building up in Miss De Garmo mental and physical fiber which was so characteristic of her.

Miss De Garmo was saved at an early age and baptized in the Frenchman River by her pastor, my father. In the Autumn of 1906 she entered Fort Wayne Bible Institute and in the Spring of 1909 was graduated in the first class leaving the Institute. For a number of years she gave faithful service and gained valuable experience at the Sprunger Orphanage, at Berne, Indiana. The call of God to foreign missionary service became clearer and more imperative. Her pastor and family had gone to

● Roy Birkey lived in this section of China for many years. In fact, his father built the home in which Miss De Garmo met her death. Mr. Birkey is a missionary under the Missionary Church Association. He returned from his last trip to China in 1947.



This is the home in Liuho that was built by the father of the author of this article, and in which Miss Mary De Garmo lived. The arrow points to the window through which the hand grenade was thrown, that took her life. The next day she was laid to rest in the garden in front of her home.

China, she, too, felt that she must go.

Early in 1920, Mary De Garmo arrived at Liuho, a small railroad station, where Father and Mother Birkey had, by prayer and by persevering efforts, established a mission. A little home with heavy walls of mud and sand brick had been built and a church building accommodating 500-600 persons had been completed. After breakfast each morning, Father Birkey with his family and with Miss De Garmo would gather around an old-fashioned sheet iron wood burner in the front room which served as office, guest and living room. Mottoes such as, "Begin the Day with God," and "Prayer changes Things," decorated the white-washed walls.

An organ stood along the north side which brought much joy and comfort. Along the opposite wall and in the corner stood a writing desk. Between the two east windows stood a "center table" on which the Bibles of the family were placed neatly across the corners, with a small fiber basket containing Bible-promise references in the center. The deep cracks of the wide board floor were filled with putty of pig's-blood and brick-dust. This was covered with boiled tung-oil. A few small handmade throw rugs brightened the dull patterns. The timbers over-head were dressed and painted but uncovered. With exception of the three built-in window seats which receded into the 2-2½ feet

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT AT B. I.

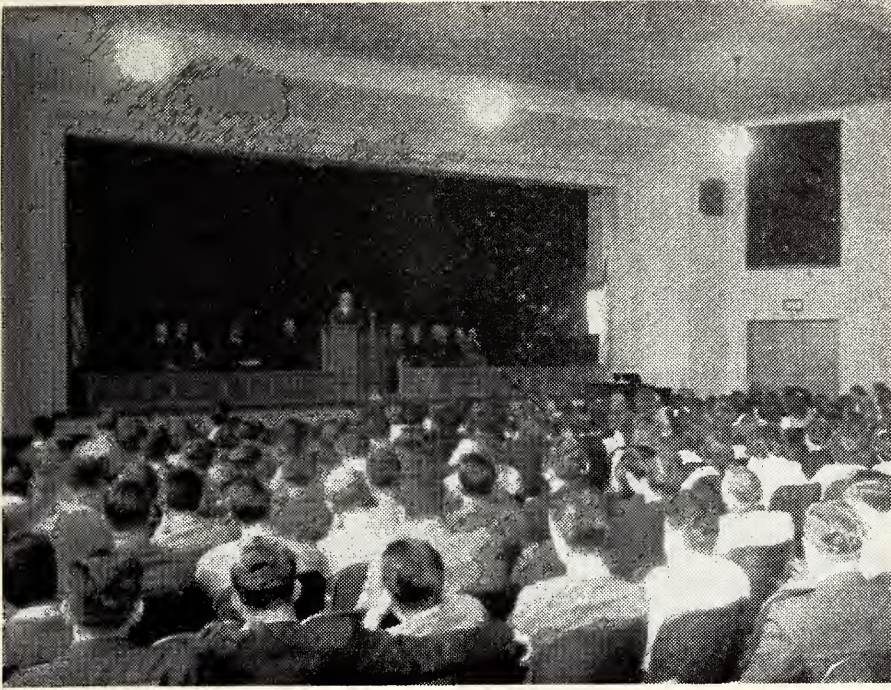
- Before the sun lifts its head above the horizon these winter days, the bell has rudely awakened everyone. The first sign of activity, to an outsider, is Earl Kreamer raising the flag.

Frank Deninger, Chicago, Illinois, majoring in theology, is typical of the many students at Fort Wayne Bible Institute.

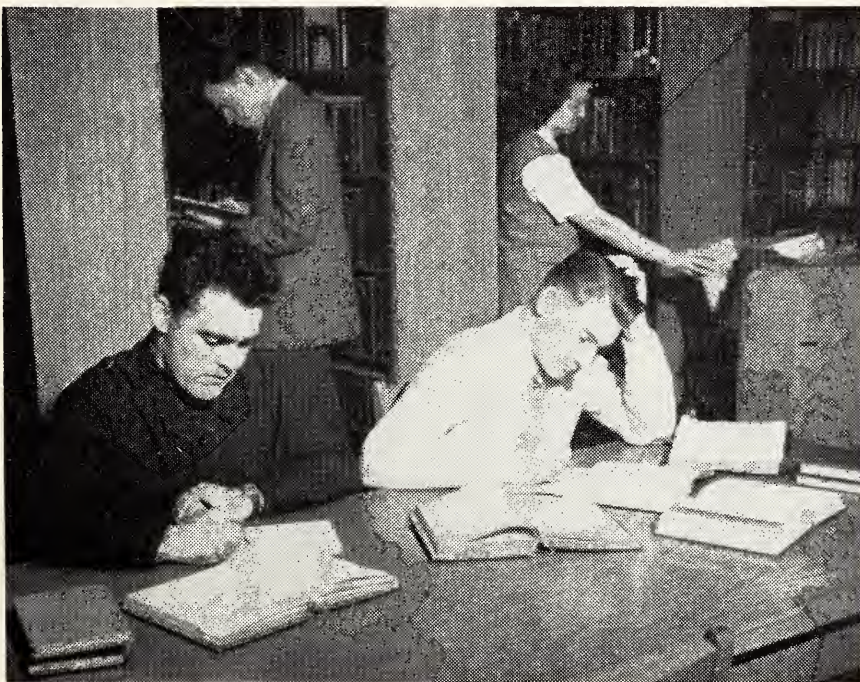


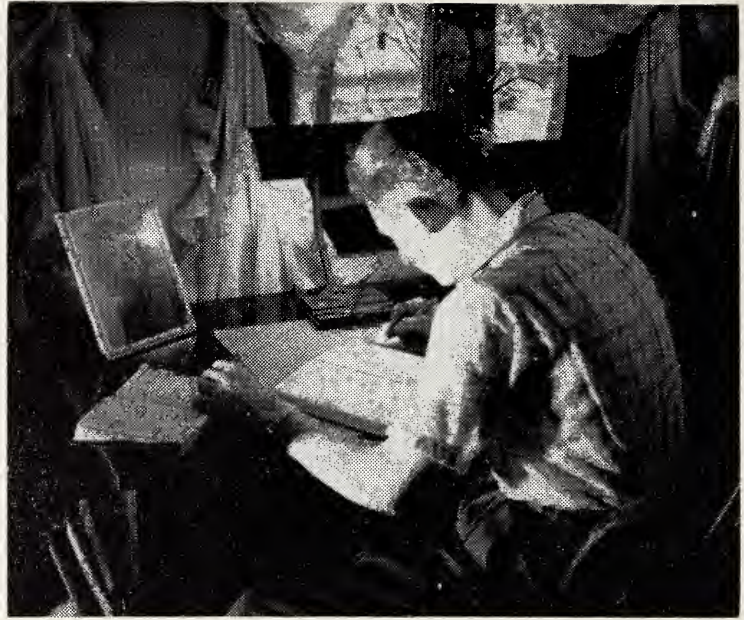
- 6 A. M.—Boy! What a short night! Frank is reaching for the alarm clock. He looks as if he were going to throw it out the window instead of shutting it off.
- No time to waste. There are only 25 minutes to dress, shave, and prepare for the day. At 6:25 everyone pauses for a time of devotions. Breakfast at 6:45.
- 8 A. M. finds Frank in class. Altho a theological major, he took some music. This semester he'll keep busy with Greek, Prison Epistles, Apologetics, Pastoral Seminar, Homiletics, and Missions.



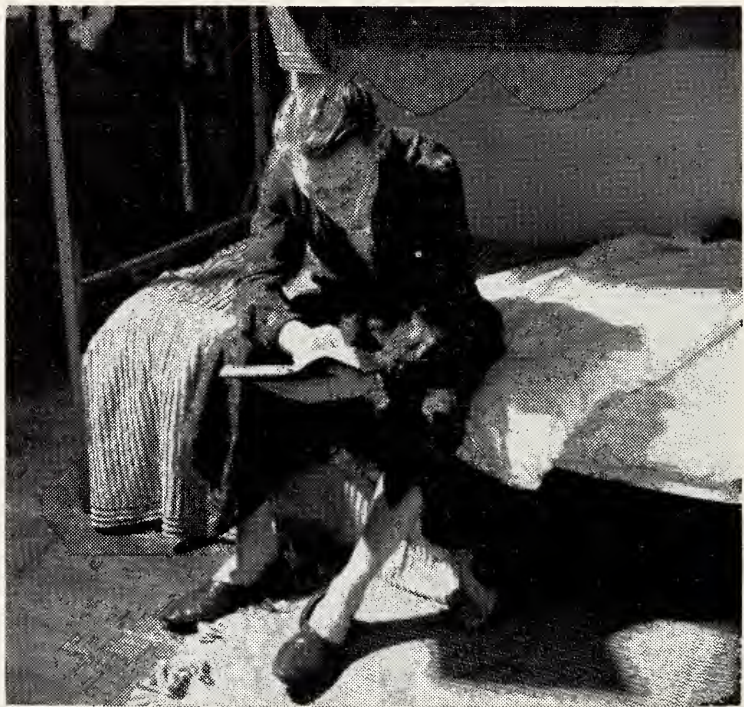


- Every morning at 9:50 it's time for chapel. Frank gets lost in the crowd, but he's there.
- The library is a favorite retreat for Frank during free periods. Although it's a busy place, it is always quiet enough to get lost in studies.





- Frank uses his afternoons for study. That is, 'til late afternoon. At 5 o'clock he punches in at a factory where he operates an automatic grinder until 11 P. M. Students who do not work their way thru college usually take part of the afternoon for recreation.



- After a day like this Deninger is ready to retire—but not until after something from the Word.

thick walls, a few native built chairs completed the furnishings of the room. There, a song was enthusiastically sung and a portion of Scripture was read, each one, young and old, participating sometimes in Chinese. And then they all kneeled for prayer, each taking his turn. Thus, was Miss De Garmo initiated into active missionary life and service by her former pastor and his wife. Little did they then realize how Mary was destined to play such an important part in the further development of the work there and how she was to give her life in that very room.

In 1927, Mother Birkey's health failed and she was taken to America. The children felt called to press farther inland to more pioneer areas. So in time Miss De Garmo was appointed to Liubo. Meanwhile, she had acquired a good working knowledge of the colloquial dialect. She loved the dirty little tots, and they knew it. Her heart also went out in sympathetic understanding to the new converts among the women, most of whom could not read enough to study the Scriptures. This presented a real challenge to Miss De Garmo. So in addition to her administrative work at the station, she would spend weeks and months in the villages teaching the women the phonetic system, (a simplified form of the Chinese language) whereby these uneducated women could in a comparatively short time learn to read the New Testament. Here Miss De Garmo lived and worked pouring out her talents in loving compassionate service for her Lord. The results were that more outstations were opened. Many more were converted and baptized. The crowds grew until 400 and 500 persons met for Sunday services and 800-1,000 persons gathered for

quarterly meetings. And more and more did the Chinese Workers and believers assume the responsibility of witnessing and financing the work.

Then the Sino-Japanese war broke over North China. Miss De Garmo was only one of the many who were taken captive and interned in a Shanghai prison camp.

Upon returning to her station she found that the buildings were in much need of repairs, but the work of the Lord was going on. As many as 400 were out for Sunday services and these were largely from the country. Courageously, she again took up the strands of the work—building, teaching, comforting, and praying. Finally, the civil war, like a foul vial, was poured out over North China and the line of conflict between the Nationalists and Communists moved closer and closer and weaved back and forth over Liuho. A terrific battle was fought near the town but the Communists were driven back. Then, there was another bulge and another heavy battle. Miss De Garmo and her co-worker took refuge between the two heavy center walls of the building which had been a haven of shelter during a similar battle some years before. As the smoke of the battle was clearing, Miss De Garmo, thinking that the danger was past, ventured out into the front room to welcome the 8th Route Army. Just as she was entering it, a hand grenade was flung through one of the east windows, hit the floor and exploded. Apparently, the full force of the impact struck Miss De Garmo in her face and right side because it inflicted at least thirty large and small wounds. She turned about, lifted her hand to her face and spoke her last words: "I am hit."

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Fellowship Circle

JUNIOR ALUMNI

On December the 3rd a baby girl was welcomed into the home of **Rev. (39) and Mrs. Oscar Eicher**, pastor of the West Berne Missionary Church.

* * *

WEDDING BELLS

Miss Esther Hoover (student '45-'47) of Dayton, Ohio, and **Roy Dettwiler** (student '46-'47) of Petoskey, Michigan, were united in marriage on December the 27th. Mr. Dettwiler is attending Bethel College, Mishawaka, Indiana.

* * *

MISSIONS

Our guest speaker for the chapel service on January 14 was **Rev. Jack Cook**. He and his wife were students in '38-'40. He told us about the Lord wonderfully supplying their needs so that it is possible for them to make definite plans to return as missionaries to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The Lord willing, they shall be leaving about the first of March. He also spoke about the great need for missionaries in West Virginia. In one week they were privileged to reach 3500 students from the first to the eighth grade. On every hand there is a work for each of us to do. Let us occupy until He comes.

Miss Mildred Wanner ('43) of Geneva, Indiana, is planning to sail on the boat, Santa Margarita on February 13 for Esmeraldas, Ecuador.

Miss Velma Goff ('45) of Kingsley, Michigan, is sailing on February the 5th for the Dominican Republic, where she shall join the Neuenschwanders and Dycks in their missionary work. We trust the Lord shall richly bless Miss Wanner and Miss Goff as they begin their new duties in these fields.

* * *

Dear Friends of the Bible Vision,

"... After graduating from B. I. with the great class of 1945, God privileged me to be able to finish my college work at Goshen College as well as pastoring our church at Mishawaka, Ind., for a year. After being appointed to work in Nigeria in May of this past year, we spent the summer mostly in preparation for going to the field. . . .

"When we arrived in Jebba, our Mission headquarters, we still had not travelled beyond the reach of B. I. graduates, for we were met at the R. R. station by two more, Rev. Russell Sloat, our Field Supt., and Mrs. Sloat. After two days at Jebba, we were sent out 35 miles to our station here at Share. Among those who were to be our fellow-workers here at Share were Rev. and Mrs. John Bontrager, of the Class of '44. Our mission has two stations here in Share, since the town of about 8,500 is divided into two language sections, Nupe, and Yoruba. We have been studying the Yoruba language since coming here.

"We also had the privilege to attend our Annual Field Meeting since arriving on the field. At that time we got to see several more B. I. graduates, including classmates, Arthur and Gladys Reifel, and one of the younger members of the class, Connie Marie. We have also heard from Jake and Ruth Schierling '45, who are our next-door

neighbors just over in Sierra Leone. It would be interesting to know how many B. I. grads are in Africa, but at the present time there are already seven of our own class out here. We feel that God has certainly privileged us to be a part of this great program, and we feel more than ever that it is only by His help that we can in any way help to relieve some of the suffering and soul-hunger which we see on every side. We are glad to say that even since we have been here that we have had the privilege of seeing some response to the Gospel message as some of the workers here on the station have preached in some of the out-stations. It is sad to see how quickly even out here the people begin to harden their hearts to the message, but there is real earnestness and hunger among the people out in the many, many villages that have had little or no Gospel messages. Our desire and prayer is that we may soon be able to help them see their need of One who can take away the sin and darkness from their hearts, and can put in its place peace and joy of sins forgiven.

"May we all continue to unite our prayers together for all of those throughout the world who are attempting to bring this Light to those lost in the darkness of sin."

Yours in His service,

Wayne and Hilda Brenneman,
'45.

* * *

From Colombia, South America, Miss Florence Cavender '35 writes:

"We have seen a most wonderful development in the workings of God; another whole region is being opened up to the Gospel. Two of our workers went to a new place one week-end and found the people providentially prepared to receive

the message of salvation and to receive the Gospels, of which about 1,200 were distributed. Unknown to us, that same week the leader of the labor union in that town had gone through the streets with a loud speaker announcing the coming of the Protestant ministers! He knew nothing about it, but was only trying to aggravate the priest, whom he didn't like. Imagine his surprise and delight when the two Protestant ministers came on the scene! And the whole town welcomed them with open arms.

"Of course this visit caused some reaction from those whose rule had been undisputed until then. The priest had a special procession, and getting the people all together in the plaza, made a sizzling speech against the Protestant invaders. Our two workers were right there in the midst and said that they never heard a stronger attempt to incite the people to a stoning, but not a finger was raised against them. Rather, the people took their stand beside the two "heretics." In two weeks the same workers went back to that village. As a demonstration against them, the priest made a bonfire of the Gospels which were being given out. However, later, when our two men examined the pile of ashes and unburned bits of paper, they found parts of newspaper and magazines! Imagine! Not finding enough people willing to give up their Gospels, a camouflage was used to make a healthy looking bonfire! Quite indicative, is it not?"

AT RANDOM . . .

- Using the radio as a substitute for going to church is like courting your girl on the telephone.
- A dewdrop does the will of God as much as a thunderstorm.

We Acknowledge

Fort Wayne Bible Institute is grateful to God for the many friends who share in the important task of training young men and women for Christian service. Just as it takes consecrated men and women to teach and operate the Bible college, so it takes men and women, with a vision of the great need of spreading the gospel, to give and to back their gifts in prayer.

The following gifts have been received for the Building Liquidation Fund, since the last report:

150.....	\$ 19.00
5.....	15.00
7.....	1000.00
8.....	25.00
9.....	15.00
10.....	5.00

The indebtedness on the buildings (all debts on buildings are lumped together and called the Building Liquidation Fund) as of February 1, 1948:

Bonded indebtedness	\$8,200.00
Notes	2,500.00
Total	\$10,700.00
Cash on hand.....	169.93
Net indebtedness	\$10,530.07

Sometimes, here at the Institute, we speak of our work as a task. It is, but more than that, it is an opportunity for real service. The friends who contribute feel that way, too. Here are excerpts from a few letters:

"... we are taking this means of thanking the Bible Institute. . . we also would like you to know that if we can be of any service to the Bible Institute, that you will be free to call on us."

From Indiana, "Enclosed is our check for \$200.00 which you may feel free to use in the work of the school as you deem best. We are appreciative of the work of the Institute and are happy to make this small contribution toward the furtherance of your good work."

A friend in Ohio writes, "Recently on a visit to Fort Wayne, I had the opportunity to rejoice that the Bible Institute has the ownership of so fine a location as that occupied by your several buildings. What a splendid illustration of God's guiding hand in the affairs of His people . . . enclosed is a check."

We invite you to share in the work of the Bible Institute.

OUR ALUMNA MARTYR

And there, from that inner sanctum where many a spiritual battle was waged with "the rulers of the darkness of this world" and was won, from that little "haven of rest," in that wild turbulent section of North China, Mary walked into the presence of her Lord and Master, and into the presence of her loved ones and Chinese believers who had preceded her. The details of her burial have not been received. We do know that the communists returned and looted many of the things there at the station. Even after a coffin had been secured, the Chinese pastor urged that she be buried quickly least it be taken for another. How we need to pray for the missionaries and for the Chinese believers who remain under those indescribable conditions.

Miss Mary De Garmo was a diligent, persevering, sacrificing missionary for nearly 28 years. The words of Jesus when He commended another "Mary" seem appropriate hear: "She hath done what she could." Just a modest, retiring, farm girl from the Mid-Western plains, but she unhesitatingly and increasingly gave her talents, her love for Christ and for the Chinese, and finally, her very life.

While our hearts bow in sorrow at such suffering and unexplainable tragedy, as far as the physical

other hand, many potential ministerial students were in the armed services for many veterans are now in theological schools.

The total enrollment of theological students in Protestant schools in 1940-41 was 15,124. In 1944-45 the total was 15,796. In 1946-47 it was 20,823. This latter figure represents a gain of 37.7 per cent over the attendance of 1940-41, and 37 per cent of the 20,823 are veterans.

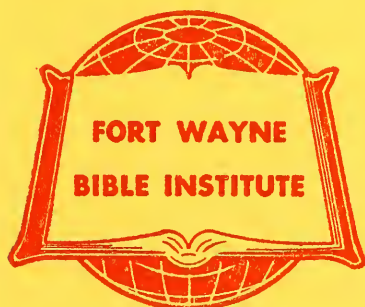
National Headquarters of Selective Service in its published conclusion states: "The question of

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were granted.

Now Selective Service itself has the answer. National Headquarters conducted a survey among 569 schools to determine the facts. It found that the average yearly increase in attendance was between three and four per cent before 1940-41. During the years of the war, 1941-42 to 1944-45, the rate of increase decreased to approximately one per cent per year. On the

on the stormy waters of fear and doubt."

And she cried, "Lord, if it be Thou, save me."

And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught her and said, "Oh, thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

And the wind ceased, and she came into His ship and joyfully began to scrub the deck, "Under New Management."

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While our hearts bow in sorrow at such suffering and unexplainable tragedy, as far as the physical is concerned, yet, we humbly thank God that He has given the Bible Institute the ministry of inspiring, directing, and instructing young men and women like Mary De Garmo into such self-forgetful, Christ centered service. This is one of the few real values that remain in these critical days and that will remain in eternity.

PRESIDENT

But these were the exceptions, not the rule. Some concern was felt among Congressmen when the exemption of theological students was under discussion that "draft dodgers might hide in theological schools." Representative Kennedy raised the question in 1940 as to whether there might not be a great rush to these schools if exemption were granted.

Now Selective Service itself has the answer. National Headquarters conducted a survey among 569 schools to determine the facts. It found that the average yearly increase in attendance was between three and four per cent before 1940-41. During the years of the war, 1941-42 to 1944-45, the rate of increase decreased to approximately one per cent per year. On the

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National Headquarters of Selective Service in its published conclusion states: "The question of whether the exemption of theological students from the draft in the time of war would cause 'a great rush' to the divinity schools seems to have been well answered by the information gathered. The fact that the increase of 10.4 per cent in the three years from 1937-38 to 1940-41 was cut to a 4.7 per cent increase in the four-year period from 1940-41 to 1944-45 shows that this did not occur."

God has His men who are responding to the eleventh hour call and who are sincere, conscientious, and true. God bless them all.

—S. A. Witmer

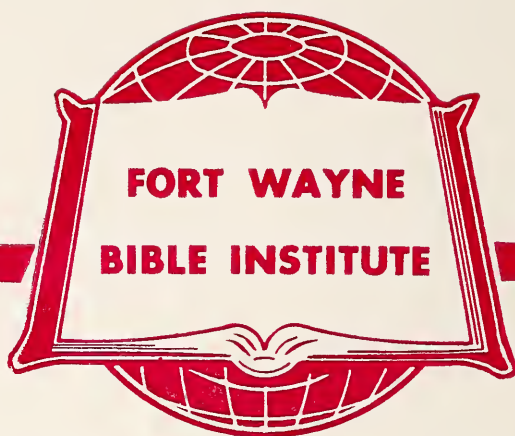
UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

and herself and trust Him with these? And He straightway spake unto her, saying, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Come, even on the stormy waters of fear and doubt."

And she cried, "Lord, if it be Thou, save me."

And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught her and said, "Oh, thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

And the wind ceased, and she came into His ship and joyfully began to scrub the deck, "Under New Management."



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